

Docket No.: 02-21 US

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed June 1, 2004. Claims 1-20 have been pending in the present application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 8-11, 16, 18 and objected to claims 3-7, 12-15, 19 and 20.

By this Amendment the Applicants canceled claims 2-3, 10, 12-13, 17, 19-20 without prejudice and amended claims 1, 4-5, 8, 11 and 16 to clearly define the invention of the subject application and aiming to overcome the rejections of the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration of rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 10 has been canceled, therefore it is believed that this rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 9-11, 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being clearly anticipated by Chandler. The Applicants note with regret that the arguments submitted by the Applicants on March 26, 2004 were not heard. Applicants respectfully disagree with the interpretation of the reference presented by the Examiner. The amendments made to the claims to overcome this rejection are made solely to advance the prosecution of this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 3-7, 12-15, 19 and 20 but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is believed that the claims as amended are presented in allowable form and all the issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed.

Docket No.: 02-21 US

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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